



NEWS RELEASE

United States Department Of Agriculture Rural Development
Rm. 152 Federal Building 100 Centennial Mall North Lincoln, Neb. 68508
(402) 437-5551 (Phone) (402) 437-5093 (TDY) (402) 437-5408 (Fax)

Denise Brosius-Meeks 402-437-5559

USDA ANNOUNCES \$6 MILLION IN GRANTS FOR RURAL ECONOMIC AND COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

Lincoln, Neb., August 23, 2005 – USDA Rural Development announces the availability of \$6 million in rural community development initiative (RCDI) grant funds designed to support rural economic and community development efforts.

Rural Community Development Initiative (RCDI) program provides grants to qualified intermediary organizations (private, non profit, public, including tribal). Intermediaries assist nonprofit, community-based housing and development organizations, federally recognized Indian Tribes and low-income communities located in rural areas (population 50,000 or less), via financial and technical assistance, in developing their capacity and ability to undertake projects related to housing, community facilities, or community and economic development. Visit <http://www.rurdev.usda.gov/rhs/rcdi/>.

Intermediaries required to obtain matching funds, doubling value of USDA grants. Minimum grant \$50,000, maximum \$500,000. Funding of selected applicants will be contingent upon meeting conditions of grant agreement.

Technical assistance includes: setting up homeownership education programs; supporting micro-enterprises, cooperatives and sustainable development; and providing training to develop strategic plans, hire staff and oversee board operations and management.

Program requirements and information on how to apply available in August 5, 2005 Federal Register Volume 70, Number 150 Pages 45355-45365 that can be accessed at <http://www.gpoaccess.gov/>. Additional information on grant program and other USDA Rural Development programs can be obtained by visiting: <http://www.rurdev.usda.gov/>.

Visit <http://www.rurdev.usda.gov/rhs/rcdi/index.htm> for application requirements. Application packages may be requested from William Kenney, Rural Housing Programs, Rm. 0183, Stop 0787, 1400 Independence Ave., SW., Washington, DC 20250-0787, phone (202) 720-1506, william.kenney@wdc.usda.gov. Applications must be submitted to William Kenney with copy to Rural Development State Office where applicant is located. For Nebraska, mail copy of application to USDA Rural Development Attn. Community Programs, Rm. 152 Federal Bldg, 100 Centennial Mall North Lincoln, Neb. 68508. Application deadline 3 p.m. CST, November 3, 2005. Applications not accepted via fax or email.

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